

*December 6, 1883.*

THE PRESIDENT in the Chair.

The President announced that he had appointed as Vice-Presidents:—

The Treasurer.

The Duke of Argyll.

Mr. De La Rue.

Mr. Francis Galton.

Professor Prestwich.

The Presents received were laid on the table and thanks ordered for them.

The following Papers were read:—

- I. "Description of Parts of a Human Skeleton from a Pleistocene (Palæolithic) Bed, Tilbury, Essex." By Professor OWEN, C.B., F.R.S., &c. Received November 26, 1883.

(Abstract.)

The subject of the present paper was discovered during the excavations of docks now in progress at Tilbury Fort, Essex, at a depth of 32 feet from the present surface. It consists of a considerable proportion of a human skeleton, the parts of which are determined and described. The inferences deduced are that they were from a somewhat aged male of great muscular strength; and such inferences as to food, as might be drawn from the worn crowns of the teeth in use at his demise, are given. A chemical analysis of the bones is added by Dr. Walter Flight, of the Laboratory Department in the British Museum. A section of the several strata dug through before arriving at the bed is appended.

This section determines the man to have lived at the so-called "Palæolithic period." The author acknowledges his indebtedness to Colonel Du Plat Taylor for the transmission of the skeleton, with a notification of its discovery, in a letter of the 1st October, 1883; also to Mr. Donald Baynes, engineer of the dock works, who transmitted a section of the strata. These consist, from the grave-bed upwards, of "sand," "mud," "peat," "mud and peat," "mud," "clay."

Figures of the bones and teeth described, and "plan of the section," accompany the text.